

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A portable telephone comprising:
 - 2 a transceiver for transmitting and receiving data;
 - 3 a display device; and
 - 4 control circuitry coupled to the transceiver and the display device,
5 wherein the control circuitry is configured to enable the portable telephone to
6 send and receive electronic mail messages and voice messages using the
7 transceiver, wherein the control circuitry is further configured to cause a
8 graphical user interface to be displayed on the display device, the graphical
9 user interface allowing a user to access stored electronic mail messages and
10 voice messages from a single display screen rendered on the display device.
1. 2. A portable telephone according to claim 1, wherein the portable telephone
2 is a cellular telephone of the hand-held variety.
1. 3. A machine-implemented method of allowing a user to reply to a stored
2 message, the method comprising the steps of:
 - 3 receiving a user input selecting the message, the message having been
4 received from a source;
 - 5 in response to the user input, automatically entering an appropriate
6 one of a plurality of reply modes based on the source of the message.
1. 4. A method according to claim 3, wherein the message can be either an
2 electronic mail message or a voice message.

1 5. A method according to claim 3, further comprising the step of receiving a
2 reply form for the message, the reply form provided by a sender of the
3 message.

1 6. A method according to claim 3, wherein the step of automatically entering
2 an appropriate one of a plurality of reply modes based on the source of the
3 message comprises the step of selecting a reply message.

1 7. A method of enabling a user of a portable communication device to reply
2 to a stored message, the method comprising the step of transmitting
3 sequences of instructions from a host processing system to the portable
4 communication device, the sequences of instructions including instructions
5 which, when executed on the portable communication device, cause the
6 portable communication device to perform the method recited in claim 3.

1 8. In a wireless telephone communication device capable of receiving and
2 storing electronic mail messages and voice messages, a method of allowing a
3 user of the communication device to reply to a received message, the
4 communication device including a display device, the method comprising
5 the steps of:

6 displaying an indication of a stored message on the display device,
7 wherein the stored message may be either an electronic mail message or a
8 voice message, the stored message having a source identifier;
9 receiving a user input selecting the received message; and

10 in response to the user input, automatically entering an appropriate
11 one of a plurality of reply modes based on the source identifier.

1 9. A method according to claim 8, wherein the step of automatically entering
2 an appropriate one of a plurality of reply modes based on the source identifier
3 comprises the step of automatically entering either an electronic mail reply
4 mode or a voice reply mode based on the source identifier.

1 10. A method according to claim 9, wherein the source identifier comprises
2 Caller ID information, and wherein the step of automatically entering an
3 appropriate one of a plurality of reply modes based on the source identifier
4 further comprises the step of using the Caller ID information to identify the
5 source identifier as a telephone number.

1 11. A method according to claim 9, wherein the source identifier comprises a
2 telephone number, and wherein the step of automatically entering an
3 appropriate one of a plurality of reply modes based on the source identifier
4 further comprises the step of:

5 receiving Caller ID information specifying the telephone number; and
6 automatically initiating a dial-out sequence using the Caller ID
7 information in response to receiving the user input.

1 12. A method according to claim 8, wherein the step of automatically
2 entering an appropriate one of a plurality of reply modes based on the source
3 identifier further comprises the step of

4 identifying the source identifier as an electronic mail address; and
5 automatically selecting and displaying on the display device an
6 appropriate reply form for the electronic mail address in response to the user
7 input.

1 13. A method of enabling a user of a wireless telephone communication
2 device to reply to a received message, the method comprising the step of
3 transmitting sequences of instructions from a host processing system to the
4 wireless telephone communication device, the sequences of instructions
5 including instructions which, when executed on the wireless telephone
6 communication device, cause the wireless telephone communication device
7 to perform the method recited in claim 8.

1 14. In a wireless hand-held telephone communication device, a method of
2 processing outgoing telephone calls, the method comprising the steps of:
3 receiving user inputs for initiating an outgoing call, the user inputs
4 specifying a destination telephone number;
5 in response to the user inputs, automatically referencing the
6 destination telephone number against a database to determine whether the
7 destination telephone number is currently appropriate.

1 15. A method according to claim 14, outputting a message to a user according
2 to whether the destination telephone number is determined to be currently
3 appropriate.

1 16. A method according to claim 15 wherein the step of outputting a message
2 to a user according to whether the destination telephone number is
3 determined to be currently appropriate comprises the step of outputting the
4 message prior to executing the outgoing call.

1 17. A method according to claim 16, the method further comprising the steps
2 of waiting for a second user input before executing the call, wherein the
3 second user input is in response to the outputting of the message.

1 18. A method according to claim 14, the database maintaining a plurality of
2 telephone numbers and a set of times for which each of the telephone
3 numbers is appropriate.

1 19. A method of enabling a wireless hand-held telephone communication
2 device to process outgoing telephone calls, the method comprising the step of
3 transmitting sequences of instructions from a host processing system to the
4 communication device, the sequences of instructions including instructions
5 which, when executed on the communication device, cause the portable
6 communication device to perform the method recited in claim 14.

1 20. A portable telephone comprising:
2 means for receiving user inputs for initiating an outgoing call, the user
3 inputs specifying a destination telephone number; and
4 means for accessing a database, the database including a set of
5 telephone numbers and a set of times for which each of the telephone

6 numbers is appropriate, to determine if the destination telephone number is
7 currently appropriate.

1 21. A portable telephone according to claim 20, further comprising means for
2 outputting a message if the destination telephone number is determined not
3 to be currently appropriate.

1 22. A portable telephone according to claim 20, further comprising:
2 a display device; and
3 means for generating a graphical user interface using the display
4 device.

1 23. In a portable telephone communication device, a method of conveying
2 current call information to a user, the method comprising the step of
3 displaying an animated indication of a duration of a current communication
4 session on a display device.

1 24. A method according to claim 23, wherein the animated indicator
2 comprises a non-alphanumeric graphical representation.

1 25. A method according to claim 24, wherein the indicator has the appearance
2 of an analog clock.

1 26. A method of enabling a portable telephone communication device to
2 convey current call information to a user, the method comprising the step of

3 transmitting sequences of instructions from a host processing system to the
4 communication device, the sequences of instructions including instructions
5 which, when executed on the communication device, cause the
6 communication device to perform the method recited in claim 23.

1 27. A wireless portable telephone comprising:
2 control circuitry;
3 a transceiver coupled to the control circuitry for transmitting and
4 receiving data over a wireless medium; and
5 a display coupled to the control circuitry;
6 wherein the control circuitry is configured to automatically cause
7 information to be scrolled across the display.

1 28. A wireless portable telephone according to claim 27, wherein the
2 information comprises text information scrolled horizontally across the
3 display.

1 29. A wireless portable telephone according to claim 27, wherein the
2 telephone is operable in any of a plurality of modes, and wherein the control
3 circuitry is further configured to select the content of the scrolled information
4 according to a currently selected mode.

1 30. A wireless portable telephone according to claim 27, wherein the
2 telephone is configured to receive messages using the transceiver and to store

3 the messages, and wherein the scrolled information comprises information
4 indicating the presence of a received message.

1 31. A wireless portable telephone according to claim 30, wherein the scrolled
2 information further comprises information identifying the source of the
3 recorded message.

1 32. A wireless portable telephone according to claim 30, wherein the scrolled
2 information further comprises information indicating the content of the
3 recorded message.

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1 33. A wireless portable telephone according to claim 27, wherein the scrolled
2 information corresponds to data received from a remote source using the
3 transceiver, the data previously requested by a user.

1 34. A wireless portable telephone according to claim 33, wherein the scrolled
2 information is descriptive of the data received from the remote source.

1 35. A method of allowing a user to transmit a message in a portable
2 telephone, the portable telephone including a display device, the method
3 comprising the steps of:
4 receiving previously requested data from a remote source;
5 displaying information representative of the previously requested data
6 on the display device;

7 in response to a user input initiating a transmission mode,
8 automatically selecting a form for a message to be transmitted based on a
9 content of the displayed information at the time the user input is received.

1 36. A method according to claim 35, wherein the portable telephone is
2 configured to send and receive electronic mail messages; and
3 wherein the step of automatically selecting a form for a message to be
4 transmitted comprises the step of automatically selecting a form for an
5 outgoing electronic mail message based on a content of the displayed
6 information at the time the user input is received.

1 37. A method of enabling a portable telephone to allow a user to transmit a
2 message, the method comprising the step of transmitting sequences of
3 instructions from a host processing system to the portable telephone, the
4 sequences of instructions including instructions which, when executed on the
5 portable telephone, cause the portable telephone to perform the method
6 recited in claim 35.

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1 38. A method of allowing a user to transmit a message in a portable
2 telephone, the method comprising the steps of:
3 receiving data from a remote source;
4 monitoring the content of the data for predetermined content; and
5 in response to detecting the predetermined content, automatically
6 entering a mode for allowing a user to transmit a message from the
7 telephone.

1 39. A method according to claim 38, wherein the step of automatically
2 entering a mode for allowing a user to transmit a message from the telephone
3 comprises the step of automatically selecting a message to be transmitted in
4 response to detecting the predetermined content.

1 40. A method according to claim 38, wherein the step of automatically
2 entering a mode for allowing a user to transmit a message from the telephone
3 comprises the step of automatically selecting a format of a message to be
4 transmitted in response to detecting the predetermined content.

1 41. A method according to claim 40, wherein the telephone is configured to
2 send and receive electronic mail messages and to display received electronic
3 mail messages to a user; and

4 wherein the step of automatically selecting a format of a message to be
5 transmitted comprises the step of automatically selecting a form for an
6 outgoing electronic mail message in response to detecting the predetermined
7 content.

1 42. A method of enabling a portable telephone to allow a user to transmit a
2 message, the method comprising the step of transmitting sequences of
3 instructions from a host processing system to the portable telephone, the
4 sequences of instructions including instructions which, when executed on the
5 portable telephone, cause the portable telephone to perform the method
6 recited in claim 38.

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